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PUBLIC OCCURRENCES.

The following paragraph, from the Morning Chronicle of 3d inst., may be extended to Ireland. We also have our clerical magistrates, and they are also employed in a similar manner.

The practice which has lately prevailed, of converting Reverend Divines into magistrates, is a subject of regret and alarm to the friends both of civil liberty, and religious decorum. Christianity was early distinguished from all other religions, by separating the priest from the lawyer; and it is well known that the Mahometans, on their pretended reformation, relapsed into the ancient practice. The majority of clerical magistrates seem to follow the Turkish example, and to act in a great variety of characters; they are the tools of the ministers of the day, in every possible gradation, from the inquisitor of taxes, down to the mouth-piece at contested elections, and other political meetings. To the activity of this venerable description of men, may, in a great measure, be ascribed, under ministerial auspices, the "No Popery" petitions. They have been lately the chief instruments in disturbing the solitude of Sion College, and have likewise acted their parts in the smuggled petitions from the Universities. These ministers of the Prince of Peace, reverse the last command of their Divine Master. They petition that men may hate one another.

RIOTS AT ABERDEEN.

The condition of the people in Scotland is at this time so deplorable, that we lament to see there have been disturbances of an alarming kind. The following Proclamation, by the Provost and Magistrates of Aberdeen, (a city distinguished for taking the lead in addressing ministers, and expressing their approbation of every state measure,) will show the situation of that place. The designs of the mob were by breaking into the Bridewell, to seize on the arms of the Militia, which were deposited there. In this they were fortunately unsuccessful.

"By the Honourable the Provost and Magistrates of Aberdeen."

"Whereas in defiance of every exertion hitherto made by the civil power, to re-

press the disposition which a certain description of the inhabitants of this city have shown since the evening of Monday last, the 18th instant, to disturb the public peace, and endanger the lives and properties of the well-disposed part of the community; the same outrageous and disorderly conduct is still persisted in; in so much, that last night, a lawless mob had the audacity to attempt breaking into the Bridewell of this city; and did in fact demolish the outward gate; and but for a military guard posted within the walls, would, in all probability, have succeeded in their design on the inside of the house; and being disappointed in this, they next proceeded to the breaking of windows, and other acts of violence and outrage. These are, therefore, a second time, warning all and every the inhabitants of this city, to abstain from assembling in the streets or environs of the same, in a riotous and tumultuous manner, as has been the case since the day above-mentioned; certifying all such found in crowds, whether men, women, or boys, and whether actively employed or not, that they run the imminent risk of their lives; as the magistrates can no longer consider themselves warranted to refrain from the serious and disagreeable step of calling in the aid of military force, and proceeding to military execution, in repressing the tendency which now prevails for rioting, and the commission of every thing lawless and outrageous.

"The Magistrates farther think it their duty to notify, that, by Act of Parliament, (1st Geo. I.) 'If any persons, to the number of twelve, shall be found assembled, and shall not, after Proclamation in the King's name, immediately disperse, and depart to their habitations, such persons so continuing together, are guilty of Felony, and liable to suffer death, without benefit of clergy.'

"GOD SAVE THE KING.

"Council Chamber, Aberdeen, 21st Nov. 1812."

The situation of all that part of the kingdom is indeed most melancholy; much of the corn is not yet cut, and a great deal is lying on the ground in a perishing state, totally unfit to carry. The harvest has been dreadful, and unfortunately the ma-

nufactories are almost at a stand. One of them, the most extensive concern in Aberdeen, has given notice, that they must suspend working altogether.

The following singular publication is announced in a periodical publication, as being likely to be soon published in London. The theme is a copious one, and is highly interesting to the public, in the present crisis. The editors of newspapers, by their continued exertions to flatter the worst passions of the people, contribute greatly to the extension of a war-loving spirit, and are among the foremost to encourage the infatuated, fashionable war-whoop.

"Dr. S. W. Wilson announces an exposition of facts, relative to the systematic corruption of the ephemeral press of the metropolis. The chief object of this work is, (he says,) to explain the real origin of the daily misrepresentations with which our morning and evening papers abound; and to prove, that the whole is the effect of a regularly organized plan for deluding the people, and encouraging a spirit of protracted warfare." [MONTHLY MAGAZINE.]

CONSEQUENCES OF PREJUDICE AGAINST VACCINATION.

No fewer than 111 persons died, in London, of the small-pox, within the short space of 14 days, as appears from the bills of mortality. These are mostly the children of the poor, whose parents have unhappily conceived an absurd prejudice against vaccination. Unfortunately this prejudice is not confined to London, as in many parts of Ireland unfounded reports have been industriously circulated, of children having taken the small-pox, who had been previously vaccinated. The number of real failures are extremely few. In many cases, for want of care to distinguish between the real cow-pox, and a spurious kind, which runs its course much more rapidly, mistakes have been made, which have been attributed to the want of security in vaccination against the contagion of the small-pox. The cases of failure have been so few, as by no means essentially to affect the credit of this preventative against the small-pox. It is a good precaution to try the effect of inoculating for the small-pox, after the patient has passed through vaccination.

The following relation was lately laid before the Imperial Institute, by Chaptal;

On the 10th of April, 1812, at 6 minutes past 8 in the evening, the night being very dark, the atmosphere was on a sudden illuminated by a whitish light, sufficient to see to read by, which lasted about 15 seconds, and disappeared gradually. Two minutes and a half afterwards, a considerable detonation was heard, resembling the explosion of a mine, and followed by a commotion so strong, that several persons thought it was an earthquake. At Gailloc, and at Alby, it was supposed that the powder magazine at Toulouse had blown up. Some minutes after this explosion, the sky cleared up, and the stars appeared. Two days afterwards, it was known at Toulouse, that meteoric stones had fallen, six leagues from that city, in the commune of Burgau, in the department of the Upper Garonne, and in that of Savènes, department of Tarne and Garonne. According to the account of M. Filhol, a distinguished physician at Grenade near Burgau, and that of the curate of Savènes, it appears that a great brightness was seen, like that of a rocket, and a number of explosions heard, like a rolling fire of musketry, which lasted several minutes, gradually died away, and was followed by a confused noise from the north-west. Soon after was heard a whistling of bodies, passing through the air, like stones thrown from a sling; the detonation and rolling noise was from the south-west to the north-east. Several of these aerolites fell at Pechmeja, at a farm on the side of a wood: one of them upon the house, breaking through the tiles, and bending the lath that supported them. Another fell on the threshing floor, and was picked up by the farmer; another fell by the side of Gourdas, and several on the side of Sencourlin, and one at La Praderes, near Savènes. The utmost distance between the places where they were observed to fall, was 400 toises, (about $4\frac{1}{2}$ English miles.) The different specimens brought to Toulouse, weighed from 6 to 8 ounces. They are not whole, and have all of them a part of their surface of a blackish colour, and, as it were, carbonaceous. In the interior, they are grey, and resemble the stones that fell at Aigle, but appear to contain a much greater quantity of metallic substance. Their specific gravity is 3813. The number of these stones seem to have been very considerable; but the darkness of the night, and the alarm of the spectators, probably prevented many of them from being found.

DISTRESS AT NOTTINGHAM.

The number of persons receiving parish pay in the parish of St. Mary's, in Nottingham, is at present between nine and ten thousand, out of a population of twenty-four thousand ! The number of paupers in the other parishes is nearly in the same proportion. Thus more than one-fourth of the population of this once flourishing town, is reduced to a state of extreme poverty, by the continuance of the ruinous war in which we are engaged—a war undertaken to stifle the infant liberties of France, but which will terminate in the destruction of our own national prosperity. With facts like these before our eyes, it is truly astonishing to see the unblushing impudence of those men who cry up the measures of Mr. Pitt, and tell us they have raised our country to its present height of glory !!! It is equally astonishing to see other men, the pretended champions of humanity, deprecating the petitions for peace, which are now pouring in on Parliament from the midland counties.—A public meeting is called by the Mayor of Nottingham, on the 28th instant, to petition for peace.—*Leeds Mercury.*

DINNER AT PERTH.

On the 20th ult., a gentleman in the neighbourhood of Perth, celebrated the 99th birth-day of his daughter, by giving

an entertainment in the Hammermen's tavern, to 29 persons, answering to the description given in Luke xiv. They were poor, maimed, halt, and blind, who could make no recompence to their benefactor. After the company had been reminded of the gratitude they owed to the providence of God, for raising up a person to feed the poor and needy, and a blessing had been supplicated on his mercy, a plain dinner was served up, and followed by one glass, which was drunk by the guests to the health of that family by whom they had been so liberally supplied. Each person received a six-pence to purchase tobacco, and they all separated in about an hour, full of gratitude.

DISTRESS AT SPITALFIELDS.

A most distressing scene was lately witnessed at No. 9, Pelham-street, Spitalfields, owing to the officers of the parish of Mile-end Newtown, distraining the goods of a poor industrious coal-beaver of the name of John Jennings. He has lately been out of work, and has not now even a bed to lie upon for himself and his family. The wife of this poor man has had twenty children, six of them twins; and to complete his affliction, one of his sons, now 17 years of age, is deaf and dumb, and unable to do any thing to get his bread.

AGRICULTURAL REPORT.

From the 20th November to the 20th December, 1819.

Some fine weather has occurred since last Report, which afforded a favourable opportunity for raising what remained of the late crop of potatoes, and sowing wheat on the ground. The very high price of that grain has induced the farmers to sow almost every acre in their possession that was suitable for it; and in many instances they have been tempted to use land, very badly calculated to make them a profitable return.

The long continuance of wet weather has retarded the exercise of the plough; and a much less proportion of land is turned over than is usual at this advanced time of the season; which will occasion a great press of work to be done in the spring, unless the succeeding month proves dry, and without frost.

The price of all sorts of grain continues high, and consequently oat-meal and potatoes keep much above what they usually bring at this season. Whether it is owing to a real demand, a deficiency of the crops, or speculation, seems not fully ascertained. Great variety of opinions is entertained on the subject.

COMMERCIAL REPORT.

In the midst of the distress affecting the manufacturing interests, from the consequences of the American war, flattering hopes were suddenly raised, from the expectation that the ports of the Baltic would be open for our commerce, and that British manufactures would again be permitted to enter the markets, at least in the north of Europe. These hopes are, however, only prospective: while the loss of the American market is real and immediate. In the hopes of the market being opened in the north, colonial produce rose rapidly, on the first dawn of expectation; and from the probability of a supply, Baltic produce fell. But when speculators had time to